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# TALES FROM THE TREE

*The Quarterly Newsletter of Ziggy's Tree Wildlife Rehabilitation Center*



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Volume No. 8      Issue No.1      Date      Spring 2018  
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## ANNUAL REPORT - 2017

This past year was one for the record books – we took in 1,248 small mammals and birds – our biggest year so far! We were able to release nearly 85% of the wild babies we received!

Our mammal intakes were especially heavy this year, primarily driven by the fact that we were the only organization in middle Tennessee specializing in the care of neonate (newborn) mammals. We admitted 850 small mammals. The neonates require around-the-clock care. Kudos to our mammal team for surviving many nearly sleepless nights! Thanks to the 2016 Eagle Scout Rehabilitation Cage Project, we had plenty of space to handle the increased caseload.



*Eastern Gray Squirrel*

Most of our mammal intakes are Eastern Gray Squirrels Virginia Opossums and Eastern Cottontails. The length of time these animals will stay with us varies greatly. Cottontails are on their own when they are 3-4 weeks old and require just a short stay in our pre-release caging, while squirrels maybe with us 3 to 4 months, as they are dependant of formula feedings for longer and then must hone their nut-cracking and foraging skills before they are released.

Our most unique mammal case last year involved in injured mama opossum with several joeys in her pouch. We were able to treat the mother's injuries while letting her continue to raise the babies naturally. Once mama was healed, we released her at a supported site where we could continue to provide food and monitor that she returned to the new den site to care for her babies.

We also had an unusually heavy year for ducks, admitting 51 Wood Ducks and 24 Mallards. Ducks are precocial birds, meaning they eat on their own immediately after hatching. The hardest part for us is providing the right amount of warmth when they are very young, and providing appropriate food as they grow older so that they avoid any nutritionally based medical problems.



*Wood Ducks*

We admitted 318 birds, primarily passerine species (songbirds) Songbirds are altricial species, meaning they are hatched either naked or with a light coat of down and unable to regulate their body temperatures or feed themselves. They require feeding up to 14 hours a day, with the youngest being fed every 15-20 minutes. Our highest species for intakes was Carolina Wren(54), followed by American Robin(42), House Finch(34), Northern Mockingbird(26), Eastern Bluebird(25) and Chimney Swift(18).



*Black-billed Cuckoo*

Our last baby bird for 2017 was the cuckoo pictured above – the first time we've ever admitted this particular species! He was displaced during a severe thunderstorm and a reunite attempt was unsuccessful. We're pleased to report he was successfully released in time for migration.

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For assistance with orphaned or injured mammals or general questions about mammals, call or text Angela at 615-631-2205.

For assistance with orphaned or injured birds or general questions about birds, call LouAnn at 931-393-4835 or 931-841-9781.

***Looking for a project for your scout troop, church, school or civic group? We'd love to have more squirrel nest boxes, and could also use small bluebird or woodpecker boxes to use with our young cavity nesting birds. Contact us for more information.***

### KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Thanks to everyone who has signed up to support us through the Kroger Community Rewards program. We've received our first disbursement for 2018, a check for \$283.64.

For privacy reasons, Kroger does not provide names of those who have signed up to support us. So even though we can't thank you personally, please know that we are extremely grateful for your support.

Not registered? Just go on-line to [www.kroger.com/community\\_rewards](http://www.kroger.com/community_rewards), and enroll your rewards card, selecting Ziggy's Tree as your charity. You still get gas points and discounts – and Kroger donates money to us!

Don't have an e-mail address or computer access? You can still sign up. Just call 1(800) KROGERS, OPTION 3 or 1(800)576-4377, OPTION 3.

And please ask your friends and family to enroll and support us!



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### SUPPORT ZIGGY'S TREE

- Become a member – just complete the application on the back of this newsletter, or visit our website to download and print an application.
- Give a gift membership to a friend!
- Purchase items from our wish list.
- Donate newspapers (we use those to line cages and cover the tables under the cages)
- Contact us about volunteer opportunities, such as transport, animal releases, administrative/office work, fundraising, board membership or contributing to our newsletter
- Like us on Facebook and stay updated on releases, admissions and other news.
- Invite us to speak to your church or civic group – we love to tell people about the work we do!

***Check our website at [www.ziggystree.org](http://www.ziggystree.org) for other ways you can support us!***

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### **SAVE THE DATE THE BIG PAYBACK MAY 2, 2018**

We are participating in The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee's Big Payback again this year. The Big Payback is a 24 hour on-line giving day. We are asking all of our friends and supporters to donate at least \$10 to "**Help Us Grow**" – all funds raised will go directly to food costs for all of our growing baby mammals and birds. We've set a goal of raising \$3,000 this year. In addition to direct donations, prizes will be awarded throughout the day for a variety of categories (categories to be determined by The Community Foundation). If you can help us win some of these prizes by organizing friends at work or in your neighborhood, please let us know!

# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!

## ADVOCATE

Joette Carter

## SUPPORTING

Hazel & Mack Fannin  
Loura Caffey  
Thomas & Mamie McClure

## FAMILY

Sara Padgett  
Mary Ann & Larry Partington  
Miree Wood

## INDIVIDUAL

Banjo Baby Squirrel Fund  
Deborah Bomar

## VETERINARIANS

Pet Medical Center

## IN-KIND & CASH DONATIONS

Banjo Baby Squirrel Fund  
Amy Holman  
Marissa Benson

## IN MEMORY OF CHUCK HENSLEY

Hazel & Mack Fannin  
James Carter II

## VOLUNTEERS

Animal Care: Sami Green, Valerie Bjorn, Sherri Pierce, Sherry Teas, Brenan Bailey, Tahira Mohyuddin, Angela Hensley, LouAnn Partington

# 2017 RELEASES

## DECEMBER

1 Mourning Dove  
1 Northern Cardinal  
1 Eastern Cottontail

## WISH LIST

- Gift cards (grocery store, Lowe's, Home Depot, Tractor Supply)
- Dried Bloodworms
- High quality dry cat food
- Baby Food (fruit – apples, bananas, blueberries)
- Canned or frozen mixed vegetables
- LCD Projector
- Heating Pads (without automatic shut-off)
- Nuts (pecans, walnuts, acorns)
- Fresh Vegetables (broccoli, carrots, kale, sweet potatoes, zucchini)
- Paper Towels
- Facial Tissues
- Toilet Paper
- Unscented laundry detergent
- 24, 36 or 48 inch Bungee cords

Contact us at 615-631-2205 or 931-393-4835 to arrange to drop off any of the above items.

## **THANK YOU!**

Thank you to all of our supporters this past year! Because of your generosity, we were able to provide appropriate food and medical care to 56 different species. We couldn't do it without your support.

We are an all-volunteer organization. Over 96% of your donation goes directly to providing food and medical care for our orphaned and injured wildlife. The remainder goes to administrative expenses such as newsletter and postage expenses and renewal of our state charter.

Ziggy's Tree Wildlife Rehabilitation Center  
92 Maple Ave.  
Tullahoma, TN 37388



**NOTICE: YOUR MAILING LABEL CONTAINS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE.**

To avoid any interruption with delivering your newsletter, we ask that you renew at least one month before the date shown. Use the Membership Form provided below.

**PLEASE RENEW, STAY INFORMED, WE NEED YOU!!!**

**YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT ZIGGY'S TREE, I AM ...**

- A NEW MEMBER**  
 **RENEWING MY MEMBERSHIP**

Memberships are for one year  
Gift Memberships are also available.

**Please Mail This Form To:**

**Ziggy's Tree WRC  
92 Maple Ave.  
Tullahoma, TN 37388**

*PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.*

___ Individual	\$25.00
___ Family	\$40.00
___ Supporting	\$100.00
___ Sustaining	\$250.00
___ Advocate	\$500.00
___ Wildlife Champion	\$1000.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ -- \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive my newsletter by email.

I am interested in volunteering in the following areas:

- \_\_\_ Environmental Education  
\_\_\_ Wildlife Rehabilitation  
\_\_\_ Fundraising

Checks should be made payable to Ziggy's Tree WRC. You can also renew/donate by credit card using our PayPal account.

Not sure what to get that special someone for birthdays, anniversaries or just because? Consider giving them a one year membership to Ziggy's Tree!

Members receive our newsletter.

*Ziggy's Tree strives to be environmentally conscious. If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of our newsletter, please check the box above or e-mail [ziggystreewildlife@gmail.com](mailto:ziggystreewildlife@gmail.com) to be placed on our mailing list.*